

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 26, 42, 44, 47, and 49 without prejudice. Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-40, and 46.

Claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-40, and 46 are presented for examination.

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement in this application on July 27, 2005, but has not yet received confirmation that the Examiner has reviewed the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant has included a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement with this Amendment, and requests that the Examiner provide such confirmation.

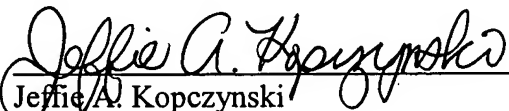
The Examiner rejected claims 26, 42, 44, 47, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,589,286 (Litner) or U.S. Patent No. 6,733,533 (Lozier). Applicant has cancelled claims 26, 42, 44, 47, and 49, and therefore requests that these rejections be withdrawn.¹

Applicant believes that claims 1-5, 7-25, 27-40, and 46 are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Applicant does not concede that the characterizations of Litner and Lozier in the Office Action (see, e.g., July 27, 2005 Office Action, page 3) are correct.